

NINETY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION  
LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 33

Introduced by Byars, 30

WHEREAS, William Rush was a quadriplegic because of cerebral palsy which required him to be confined to a wheelchair but did not confine his accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, in 1983 William Rush was the first quadriplegic to graduate with honors from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, graduating from the College of Journalism; and

WHEREAS, William Rush used a voice synthesis technology which allowed him to have a voice and speak up for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, by using a stick attached to a helmet he wore and typing each letter, he wrote his autobiography, Journey Out of Silence, which was published in 1986; and

WHEREAS, William Rush was a writer and an advocate for people with disabilities at the local level by writing op-ed pieces in the Omaha World-Herald, Lincoln Journal, and the Lincoln Star, and testifying before Congress about the Americans with Disabilities Act; and

WHEREAS, William Rush married Christine Robinson, who saw the man and the possibilities; and

WHEREAS, the state has been fortunate to have an advocate of William Rush's caliber defending the rights of, and being the

voice for, so many disabled individuals; and

WHEREAS, William Rush died at the age of forty-nine after succumbing to pneumonia but not to his disability.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE NINETY-NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature extends its sympathies to William Rush's wife, Christine Robinson.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Christine Robinson.